

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 6, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 573

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 2416 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 573, as amended, Lieu. Vehicles: emergency vehicles.

Existing law authorizes the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to issue authorized emergency vehicle permits for specified vehicles, and then only upon a finding in each case that the vehicle is used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property or for the apprehension of law violators.

This bill would authorize the ~~issuance of~~ *commissioner to issue* an emergency vehicle permit to a vehicle owned and operated by a hospital designated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services as a disaster resource center hospital, ~~that if the vehicle is used exclusively to transport mass-casualty~~ *mass casualty* decontamination apparatus medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene of an emergency, as specified. *The bill would require the hospital responsible for operating the vehicle to provide emergency vehicle operations training to vehicle operators and to maintain insurance coverage for the vehicle.*

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Los Angeles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2416 of the Vehicle Code is amended to
2 read:
- 3 2416. (a) The Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol
4 may issue authorized emergency vehicle permits only for the
5 following vehicles, and then only upon a finding in each case that
6 the vehicle is used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law
7 enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property
8 or for the apprehension of law violators:
- 9 (1) Any vehicle maintained in whole or in part by the state, a
10 county, or a city and privately owned and operated by a marshal,
11 deputy marshal, or person who is a member of, and who receives
12 salary from, and is regularly employed by, a police department or
13 sheriff's department, if the state, county, or city does not furnish
14 to that person a publicly owned authorized emergency vehicle.
- 15 (2) Any vehicle owned and operated by a public utility, used
16 primarily to accomplish emergency repairs to utility facilities or
17 used primarily by railroad police officers, who are commissioned
18 by the Governor, in the performance of their duties.
- 19 (3) Firefighting or rescue equipment designed and operated
20 exclusively as such.
- 21 (4) Any vehicle operated by the chief, assistant chief, or one
22 other uniformed person designated by the chief of a fire department
23 organized as provided in the Health and Safety Code or the
24 Government Code or pursuant to special act of the Legislature.
- 25 (5) Any vehicle of an air pollution control district used to
26 enforce provisions of law relating to air pollution from motor
27 vehicles.
- 28 (6) Any vehicle operated by the chief of any fire department
29 established on any base of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- 30 (7) Any vehicle owned and operated by any fire company
31 organized pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 14825)
32 of the Health and Safety Code.
- 33 (8) Privately owned ambulances licensed pursuant to Chapter
34 2.5 (commencing with Section 2500).

1 (9) Vehicles other than privately owned ambulances used by
2 privately owned ambulance operators exclusively to transport
3 medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene
4 of an emergency when a request for medical supplies, lifesaving
5 equipment, or personnel has been made by any person or public
6 agency responsible for providing emergency medical
7 transportation. These vehicles shall display a sign or lettering not
8 less than two and one-half inches in height, in a color providing a
9 sharp contrast to its background, on each side showing the name
10 of the ambulance operator.

11 (10) Any vehicle owned and operated by an office or department
12 of a city, county, or district that is designated by an ordinance
13 adopted by the governing body of that local agency as a hazardous
14 materials response team vehicle for response to hazardous materials
15 emergencies.

16 (11) Any vehicle owned and operated by a hospital designated
17 by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services as a
18 disaster resource center ~~hospital~~, *hospital* that is used exclusively
19 to transport ~~mass-casualty~~ *mass casualty* decontamination apparatus
20 medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene
21 of an ~~emergency~~, *emergency* at the request of a fire department or
22 law enforcement agency, a hospital incident management team,
23 the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Service Agency, or
24 any other public agency responsible for providing local emergency
25 services. The hospital responsible for operating the vehicle pursuant
26 to this paragraph shall maintain insurance coverage for the vehicle
27 in accordance with the financial responsibility provisions of
28 Division 7 (commencing with Section 16000) *and provide*
29 *emergency vehicle operations training to vehicle operators.*

30 (b) The commissioner may adopt and enforce regulations to
31 implement this section.

32 (c) Violation of any regulation adopted by the commissioner
33 pursuant to this section is a misdemeanor.

34 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
35 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
36 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
37 Constitution because of the unique circumstances in the County
38 of Los Angeles relative to its disaster resource center program,

- 1 which is coordinated by the Los Angeles County Emergency
- 2 Medical Services Agency and funded through federal grants.

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